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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Down, Jobs Up for Every Metro Area Compared to Last April

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	April 2021*	April 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.8%	12.9%	-8.1
Carbondale-Marion	5.7%	17.5%	-11.8
Champaign-Urbana	4.8%	11.0%	-6.2
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	7.9%	16.4%	-8.5
Danville	6.5%	17.0%	-10.5
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	15.9%	-10.3
Decatur	7.9%	15.4%	-7.5
Elgin	6.3%	16.8%	-10.5
Kankakee	6.9%	16.2%	-9.3
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.5%	15.3%	-9.8
Peoria	6.4%	17.1%	-10.7
Rockford	9.7%	22.5%	-12.8
Springfield	5.9%	14.9%	-9.0
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.3%	15.1%	-9.8
Illinois Statewide	7.1%	16.3%	-9.2
* Preliminary ** Revised			

SPRINGFIELD – The number of nonfarm jobs increased over-the-year in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas in April according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The unemployment rate decreased over-the-year in all metro areas. The official, BLS approved sub-state unemployment rate and nonfarm jobs series begins in 1990.

“Decreased unemployment in all 102 counties compared to last spring is a critical component of Illinois’ pandemic recovery, and the administration will continue to deploy every available resource to ensure that this economic rebound is as widespread as possible,” said Deputy Governor Dan Hynes. “That said, COVID-19 is still with us, and the Department remains focused on supporting workers not yet able to rejoin the labor market through benefits as well as job-matching resources.”

The number of nonfarm jobs increased in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas. The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Carbondale-Marion MSA

(+9.8%, +5,000), the Springfield MSA (+9.0%, +8,400) and the Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI Metropolitan Division (+8.7%, +31,700). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division rose by +7.3%, +237,900.

Over-the-year, the unemployment rate decreased in all 14 metropolitan areas; the metro areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Rockford MSA (-12.8 points to 9.7%), the Carbondale-Marion MSA (-11.8 points to 5.7%) and the Peoria MSA (-10.7 points to 6.4%). The Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division unemployment rate fell -8.5 points to 7.9%. The unemployment rate also decreased over-the-year in all 102 counties.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – April 2021

Metropolitan Area	April 2021*	April 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	87,700	82,800	4,900
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,100	51,100	5,000
Champaign-Urbana MSA	117,600	108,600	9,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,509,500	3,271,600	237,900
Danville MSA	26,500	24,600	1,900
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	175,000	161,400	13,600
Decatur MSA	47,400	44,900	2,500
Elgin Metro Division	240,800	222,800	18,000
Kankakee MSA	42,200	40,600	1,600
Lake County-Kenosha County Metro Division	396,400	364,700	31,700
Peoria MSA	159,500	149,100	10,400
Rockford MSA	134,600	127,000	7,600
Springfield MSA	102,100	93,700	8,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	229,900	212,600	17,300
Illinois Statewide	5,720,900	5,310,300	410,600
* Preliminary ** Revised			

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Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

Labor Market Area	Apr 2021	Apr 2020	Over the Year Change
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division			
Cook County	8.7 %	17.1 %	-8.4
DuPage County	5.5 %	13.6 %	-8.1
Grundey County	6.0 %	15.3 %	-9.3
Kendall County	5.7 %	14.9 %	-9.2
McHenry County	5.7 %	15.1 %	-9.4
Will County	7.0 %	16.0 %	-9.0
Elgin, IL Metro Division			
DeKalb County	6.1 %	15.1 %	-9.0
Kane County	6.4 %	17.1 %	-10.7
Lake & Kenosha, IL-WI Metro Division			
Lake County (IL)	5.7 %	14.9 %	-9.2
Kankakee, IL MSA			
Kankakee County	6.9 %	16.2 %	-9.3
Cities			
Aurora City	6.3 %	15.6 %	-9.3
Chicago City	9.4 %	17.9 %	-8.5
Elgin City	8.3 %	18.7 %	-10.4
Joliet City	8.8 %	18.1 %	-9.3
Kankakee City	10.5 %	17.9 %	-7.4
Naperville City	4.6 %	11.4 %	-6.8

* Unemployment rates for cities with total population of 25,000 or more can be found at https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/lmi/Pages/Local_Area_Unemployment_Statistics.aspx

Kankakee, IL MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.9 percent in April 2021 from 16.2 percent in April 2020. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 4.5 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +1,600 compared to April 2020. The Educational-Health Services (-200) sector recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago. The Leisure-Hospitality (+1,100), Retail Trade (+300), Wholesale Trade (+200), and Other Services (+200) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 7.9 percent in April 2021 from 16.4 percent in April 2020. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 3.9 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +237,900 compared to April 2020. The Information (-3,200) and Government (-2,700) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago. Leisure-Hospitality (+71,900), Retail Trade (+45,800), Professional-Business Services (+39,300), and Educational-Health Services (+33,000) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Elgin, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.3 percent in April 2021 from 16.8 percent in April 2020. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 4.0 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +18,000 compared to April 2020. The Professional-Business Services (-900) sector recorded employment declines compared to one year ago. Leisure-Hospitality (+7,200), Retail Trade (+4,800), Educational-Health Services (+2,100), Other Services (+1,700), and Construction (+1,300) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Lake & Kenosha Counties, IL-WI Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in April 2021 from 15.3 percent in April 2020. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 3.8 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +31,700 compared to April 2020. Leisure-Hospitality (+12,500), Retail Trade (+4,600), Professional-Business Services (+3,000), Other Services (+3,000), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+2,600), and Manufacturing (+2,100) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Note: Monthly 2020 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2021, as required by the U.S. BLS. Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid. The official monthly unemployment rate series for metro areas, counties and most cities begins in 1990. The official monthly nonfarm jobs series for metro areas begins in 1990 and for non-metropolitan counties it begins in 1999.

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